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## Ozal meets Sharas

ISTANBUL (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharas held a meeting with Turkey's President Turgut Ozal in Istanbul, Friday which official sources said might have focused on border security and water issues. No official announcement was made following the meeting, before which Ozal and Sharas refused to comment to journalists on the content of their talks. Sharas arrived in Turkey Thursday for a three-day official visit and talks with Foreign Minister Al Bozorgi strained ties between the two countries. Official sources said the two ministers exchanged views on border security and the sharing of the waters of Empates among Syria and downstreaming Syria and Iraq.

## PLO member gunned down

TYRE (R) — A member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was shot dead in a Palestinian camp near the southern Lebanese port city Tyre, the organisation said Friday. A PLO statement said Ahmad Darraza was gunned down Wednesday in the Palestinian refugee camp of Radhiyyeh south of Tyre. The statement accused a "treacherous party" of being behind the killing to incite inter-Palestinian fighting.

## Levy in hospital

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister David Levy was in good condition Friday after being hospitalized in a cardiac intensive care unit for chest pains; hospital officials said. Medical tests showed that the 52-year-old Levy "absolutely did not have a heart attack," said Dr. Udi Cantor, deputy director of Haemek hospital in the northern town of Afula.

"There is nothing wrong with him, and we hope that he will be released as soon as possible," Cantor said. Levy was taken to the intensive care unit because it had the best monitoring equipment.

## Reformer elected Russian premier

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Federation parliament elected a moderate reformer as prime minister Friday, rejecting a radical supporters of rebel President Boris Yeltsin. Ivan Silayev, 60, an engineering specialist, won 163 of 229 votes in the parliament of the Soviet Union's most powerful republic. His victory came in a second round of voting after Yeltsin intervened to break a deadlock. In a first ballot, Silayev, who supports a gradual transition to a market economy, had 161 votes; Mikhail Bocharov, a moderate proponent of rapid transition to free enterprise, won only 86 new but votes in a clear defeat for Yeltsin.

Yeltsin then proposed supporting Silayev. In the second ballot, Silayev had often shown independent thinking as Soviet deputy prime minister.

## Israel detains Arab poet

NAZARETH (AP) — Arab writers' groups Friday protested the arrest of poet Shafiq Habib, who was detained on suspicion that his latest collection of poems could incite anti-Israeli violence. Habib was taken from his home in the village of Deir Hana near Nazareth last Wednesday, police spokesman Meir Levy said. The Haifa district court ordered Habib released on bail Friday but then decided to remand him in custody till Sunday to allow police time to appeal the decision, Levy said.

## Kabul calls for peace forum

KABUL (R) — The Kabul government of President Najibullah launched a new diplomatic initiative with a call for a regional peace conference on Afghanistan. Since 1978, an estimated one million Afghans have been killed and five million have sought refuge abroad as the government and Mujahideen guerrillas supported by the United States have fought for the right to rule this impoverished country.

## Jordan receives \$40m from UAE

By Lamis K. Andoni  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Jordan on Thursday received \$40 million in aid from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), raising to \$65 million the total Arab assistance the Kingdom has received after the extraordinary Arab summit held in Baghdad last month, an official source said Friday.

The Kingdom has already received \$25 million from Iraq, which pledged \$50 million immediately after the summit, the source said. The source refused to be drawn into saying whether the \$40 million was part of a greater payment that the UAE had pledged to pay Jordan.

The UAE paid \$20 million to Jordan earlier this year, but the payment was part of that country's pledge of aid for the year 1989.

A senior official said Wednesday that Jordan had secured a "concrete pledge" of financial support from an Arab country in line with the summit's resolutions. He did not identify the country or the amount, but it was believed that he was referring to Kuwait, which is reported to have pledged \$75 million in cash and \$65 million in petroleum pro-

ducts.

According to the senior official, the total amount of Arab financial assistance to Jordan so far this year, including the earlier UAE payment and the pledge from the unnamed country, is above \$200 million. The 1990 fiscal budget projects a total Arab aid of \$360 million but senior officials have expressed confidence that the actual receipts would be much higher.

Saudi Arabia, a regular and principal contributor of aid to Jordan, has said that it would continue to help Jordan but has not specified the amount of assistance it would extend to Amman this year.

Senior officials estimate that Jordan needs \$1 billion a year in financial assistance from rich Arab countries to maintain a healthy economic and defensive balance and to service its debts without default for the next several years.

According to banking sources, the UAE payment should help raise Jordan's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at \$490 million last month, including \$360 million in obligatory commercial bank deposits and \$100 million in deposits from Gulf central banks under a reciprocal arrangement. The Kingdom expects to receive another \$100 million in Gulf central bank deposits before

the end of this month.

An increase in the exchange reserves will boost the Kingdom's ability to repay interests on its foreign debts. The Kingdom, which is implementing an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-approved economic restructuring programme, has successfully rescheduled part of its debts to the London and Paris clubs.

At the Baghdad summit, His Majesty King Hussein warned that Jordan would not be able to meet its financial obligations without immediate Arab assistance.

The summit pledged financial assistance to Jordan but did not make any specific commitments, leaving it to the oil-producing Arab states to determine the amounts in bilateral arrangements with the Kingdom.

Arab political sources told the Jordan Times that Iraq was spearheading efforts to increase the Gulf states' assistance to Jordan.

In an interview with the Jordan Times during the summit, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal pledged that his country "will not abandon Jordan." He did not give any specifics, nor did he say why the Gulf states were reluctant to make any collective annual pledge of assistance to Jordan.

The army also demolished

## Envoy begins mission Wednesday

## U.N. chief deplores Israeli violence at Gaza clinic

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday deplored the throwing of a tear-gas grenade by Israeli forces into a maternity and children's clinic in the Gaza Strip this week.

A protest was lodged with Israeli authorities by United Nations officials in the area.

The secretary-general's office also announced that his special emissary, Jean-Claude Aime, would leave Sunday for a visit to the Israeli-occupied territories to investigate the deteriorating situation and reports of abuses of Palestinians.

The visit will last about one week. There was no confirmation of visits to other nations, although there has been speculation that Aime might visit Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

A statement by the secretary-general's office said he "strongly deplores this incident in which so

many innocent civilians, and in particular infants and young children, were injured."

Tuesday morning in Gaza town:

"He was also abused and the officer threw a tear-gas grenade over the wall of the health centre," the U.N. report said.

The grenade fell and exploded at the open door of the waiting room of the mother-child health section of the centre where 100 to 200 women and infants had gathered, the report said.

"Members of the patrol physically abused some of the staff of the health centre and patients," the UNRWA report said. Patients then began shouting and throwing stones at members of the patrol after it withdrew from the health centre, the report said.

The European Parliament Thursday condemned Israel for what it called bloody repression, and called for an international inquiry into human rights violations in the Israeli-occupied territories.

## E. Germany detains 7 major RAF suspects

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany, long a haven for fugitive Western guerrillas, seized seven suspected West German guerrillas Friday, officials said.

West Germany had sought them as members of the Red Army Faction (RAF) guerrilla group for over a decade.

Four RAF suspects were arrested early in the day, then three more, including a couple believed to have masterminded a string of murders, officials said.

An East German Interior Ministry spokesman said suspected RAF guerrillas Barbara and Horst Meyer and Sabine-Eike Callsen were seized in Leipzig.

Earlier Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diesel said East German police, working closely with authorities in the West, arrested four suspects in a series of frightening raids.

Nine members of the group have been arrested in East Germany in just 10 days.

Security officials believe the Meyers led the guerrillas in the 1980s and are prime suspects in all major RAF attacks in recent years, including the murders of leading businessmen and a senior government official in West Germany.

They are believed to have masterminded the murder last November of one of West Ger-

many's former Stasi security police, Western officials say.

## Israelis destroy 4 Arab homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

— The Israeli army bulldozed the homes of four Palestinians in the occupied territories Thursday night, reports said Friday.

Military and Palestinian sources say a total of six Arab homes have been destroyed by the army since a right-wing government took power in Israel Monday.

Four others were sealed to prevent the families of activists from using them.

From the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987 to May 23 the army demolished 299 Arab houses and sealed 187, according to official Israeli figures. The activists were, in most cases, in detention.

Gaza residents said a total of 55 people lived in three houses destroyed Thursday night in Tel Al Sultan housing project near the Gaza Strip town of Rafah.

They were the homes of Yousef Al Najjar, 19, Imad Al Din Nasr, 22, and Zakariya Othman, 24, who have all been in detention since August on charges of killing suspected informants. Military sources said they belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Witnesses said angry Jews, some urged on by activists of the anti-Arab Kach movement, rampaged for hours during the night through Sur Bahir and nearby Jabal Mukaber, stoning houses and cars and burning fields.

Police first said they suspected an Arab woman and sealed off Sur Bahir while they questioned some 200 women suspects. They released them all, saying later they had no evidence the attacker was female or even an Arab.

Children who saw the stabbing said the assailant had a woman's hairstyle but ran like a man, suggesting it could have been a man in a wig.

Kach leader Meir Kahane and a handful of supporters staged a protest rally in Jerusalem's city centre Friday calling for all Arabs to be expelled from Israel and the occupied territories.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Israeli forces shot and wounded an 18-year-old resident during an operation.

Relatives of Jamil Ghattas said he was shot in the back by two Israeli security men. He was operated on in an Israeli hospital in Jerusalem.

Military sources said a masked youth carrying a bat was wounded during a military operation in the town.

An Israeli military court sentenced a Palestinian journalist to 45 months in jail Friday, Arab sources said.

They said Samia Khoury, 40, was charged with being a member of the unified leadership of the

uprising. He has been in Israeli detention since February 1989.

"Punishment eased"

The Israeli army Thursday reduced the sentence of an officer who tear-gassed 160 babies inside a U.N. maternity clinic in the occupied Gaza Strip this week, drawing international condemnation.

The officer was jailed for 10 days after the incident on Tuesday in which he hurled a tear-gas grenade into a United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) clinic.

He said Palestinian activists inside the hospital had been throwing stones from windows.

UNRWA said about 160 babies were affected by the gas. The Israeli army had put the number at 66.

In response to an appeal for leniency from the officer, his commander reduced the punishment to a 21-day suspended sentence on Thursday. It was not clear whether he had been released.

UNRWA headquarters in Vienna Thursday denounced the tear-gassing of the babies as "an inappropriate use of force against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip."

administration by its refusal to negotiate with Palestinian representatives.

Baker, in his testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that in working 11 months on a plan to bring Israelis and Palestinians into direct talks "we got extraordinarily close," only to meet resistance from Israel.

"I have asked him, and I have said did you mean to pinpoint specifically the Israelis. His answer to me was I intended the phone number to be used by all," she said.

Fitzwater said the remarks, in which Baker gave out the White House phone number for use by the Israelis, did not signal U.S. annoyance with Israel.

"Israel is a strong and loyal ally of the United States. They're going to continue to be one, a staunch friend. We will not change that policy one iota. And we simply point out that they have got to want the peace process for it to move forward," he said.

Despite Fitzwater's comments, Baker's remarks were widely viewed in Washington as a slap at Israel, which has irritated the Bush

(Continued on page 2)

## U.S. backs down from harsh criticism of Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House has insisted it did not hold Israel responsible for blocking peace talks in the Middle East, but admitted it has some questions about the commitment to peace by all parties in the region.

"We are very careful not to point... to take sides and to place blame and so forth," White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said when asked about Secretary of State James Baker's scolding of Israel in congressional testimony.

But, asked whether "there is a serious question within the administration about whether the Israeli government wants peace," Fitzwater replied: "There is question, certainly, on both sides."

Pressed for clarification, the spokesman said the doubts applied to "all parties."

"Jordan, under the leadership of King Hussein, has been a force for moderation in the area, and a necessary buffer between the often competing interests of other, more powerful states," Harrison said.

Maintaining the independence and integrity of his nation, while engaged in a very difficult, process of nation-building, has been the King's great achievement, he said.

Asked about Jordan's position on the issue of the emigration of Soviet Jews, Harrison said, "The King has made several statements indicating he thinks there is a danger that Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel will displace Palestinians on the West Bank and force them out." However, he said, the King has indicated that he favours their right to emigrate "so long as it does not interfere with the rights of others."

He said that in the last year and a half, King Hussein had had to deal with a "full agenda" domestically, with the liberalisation and economic reforms he has set in motion. "It takes great courage to do both things at the same time.... He's been weathering that storm, but of necessity, he has turned his eyes temporarily inward." But when negotiations begin once again, "the King is going to be at the forefront," he added.

The Rompore report did not indicate why Iliescu ordered the miners to leave during a meeting Friday with miners' leaders in Bucharest.

Rompore said he had to provide a kind of confidence in which some Palestinian entity can emerge. The King is not now at the moment ready to do that role," Harrison said.

Aid was given to the PLO point of view, the King's role has got to be to provide a kind of confidence in which some Palestinian entity can emerge. The King is not now at the moment ready to do that role," Harrison said.

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## Algerian fundamentalists celebrate election victory

ALGIERS (AP) — Exultant Islamic fundamentalists warned bar owners Friday to stop serving alcohol to Arabs and savoured their landslide victory in the North African country's first multi-party elections.

Carrying banners reading "God is great" and "Islamic republic," hundreds of fundamentalists paraded and chanted slogans throughout the capital in all-night celebrations Thursday.

Cars with horns blaring and lights flashing carried youth on their roofs and hoods. Some cried, "the army and people are with you, Madani," referring to Sheikh Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

By Friday morning, the effects of the fundamentalist route of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in municipal provincial balloting Tuesday were becoming visible.

Men who normally wear Western clothing appeared on the streets in the traditional floor-length shirt, or khamiss. Cafe owners reported visits by fundamentalists demanding they curtail alcohol sales.

Omar Ghermache, who runs the well-known La Pecherie restaurant, said a band of young fundamentalists sporting the khamiss and trademark beards advised him "to serve alcohol from now on only to Europeans."

Interior Minister Mohammad Salah Mohammadi announced officially late Wednesday that the Islamic fundamentalists had won 853 of the 1,539 municipal councils at stake in Tuesday's voting.

The ruling FLN carried 487 and the anti-clerical Rally for Culture and Democracy 87, with the rest going to a scattering of small parties and independents.

No FLN candidates gained seats in the country's three largest cities, Algiers, Oran and Con-

stantine. In the capital, the fundamentalists swept the 33-seat council.

Fundamentalists also took power in Annaba, Tlemcen, Sidi Bel Abbes, Media and Blida. Oddly, the FLN retained power in Biskra, Madani's birthplace. The fundamentalists captured 32 provincial councils. Mohammadi added. The FLN took 14, the Rally for Culture and Democracy one, and independent candidates one.

Mohammadi said that 65 percent of the country's 13 million eligible voters participated in the municipal voting and 64 per cent in the provincial voting.

The Algerian News Agency (APS) reported that President Chadli Benjedid told the cabinet Thursday that there could be no going back on democratic changes he set in motion more than a year ago.

Benjedid praised the peaceful comportment of the voters and called on all parties "to stay in solidarity to assure the deepening of the democratic process."

The socialist FLN ruled Algeria since independence from France in 1962. Blood riots over deteriorating economic conditions in October 1988 left scores dead and forced constitutional reform last year allowing new political parties.

"We've just had our first diploma in democracy," said Abderrahmane Belyat, a member of the FLN's political bureau.

"We've decided to pursue our studies until we get a doctorate."

But he also accused the fundamentalists of interfering with peaceful voting and "flagrantly

violating the election law."

Madani declared in an interview with the French television network TF-1 that Algeria is in no danger of radical fundamentalism.

"We are Muslims, not fundamentalists and we don't accept to be defined any other way," said Madani, a 59-year-old philosophy professor. "Please be objective."

Women will not be forced to wear the Islamic scarf, or hijab, Madani said. But his followers have steadily pressured female students and teachers in schools and universities to wear the scarf.

Khalida Messoudi, leader of the independent Association for the Triumph of Women's Rights, said her movement would keep struggling.

"In this country, they've never made a gift to women," she said. "It was already a battle just to work. This was a necessary slap for the democrats, but now they're going to have to move."

Madani and leaders of the two main secular opposition parties that urged their followers to boycott the elections have called on Benjedid to dissolve parliament and move up national elections scheduled for February 1993. The government has not replied.

Berber leader Hocine Ait Ahmad, leader of centrist Front of Socialist Forces, called the elections "a masquerade" in Friday's editions of the French daily Liberation.

"This is one form of totalitarianism substituted for another," Ait Ahmad was quoted as saying.

Ait Ahmad and the other leader urging a boycott, former President Ahmad Ben Bella who heads the left-leaning Popular Movement for Democracy, reject suggestions their call for abstention led to the fundamentalist victory.

"We are trying to use that contact to encourage continued moderation by the leadership of the PLO," Clark said.

Meanwhile U.S. Democratic Party Chairman Ron Brown demanded Thursday that President George Bush suspend talks with the PLO until it condemns a seaborne raid by a PLO faction on Israel.

Brown, in a speech to the Jewish organisation Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said the PLO should publicly condemn the Palestinian group's aborted attack on a Tel Aviv beach on May 30.

"This PLO has not condemned that terrorist act, and yet we have not suspended talks," he said. "This administration must suspend negotiations with the PLO until it lives up to its commitments."

Brown also said the Democratic Party, like Bush, was committed to the designation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to Jews living in any part of the city they wish.

"No president should question the right of any Jew to live in any part of Jerusalem. It is a city that Israel has kept steadfastly open to people of every faith since 1967," he said.

Brown made his comments during a speech about strained relations in the United States between blacks and Jews.

As the first black chairman of a major U.S. political party, he called on blacks and Jews to work together to overcome "a shared history and heritage of slavery," he said.

He said the Tunisian Islamic group Nahdha had influenced Algeria while repercussions in Morocco "will be very limited because the social, economic and cultural situations are totally different to those in Algeria."

Benkirane's Jenina Islamiya is officially tolerated but its fortnightly newspaper Al Islah was banned without explanation in January. He said he planned to bring out a new publication.

His movement is considered more moderate than the outlawed Adl Wa Lhsanah group. The latter's leader Abd Assalam Yassine has been under house arrest since December and six of his closest aides were jailed for two years in February convicted of belonging to an illegal organisation.

L'Opinion of the old-guard Istiqlal Party said in an editorial "one must wait for legislative elections to evaluate the real representativeness of the political parties, because then the vote will be for programmes and ideologies rather than for the candidates."

The paper said the Islamic fundamentalists had won "but the real victory is for democracy."

N'DJAMENA (AP) — The first contested elections since independence from France in 1960 will be held on July 8 for a new National Assembly, the government announced Friday.

A three-week election campaign pitting 436 candidates against each other for 123 assembly seats begins Sunday.

The election come under constitutional reforms approved by 99 per cent of the electorate on Dec. 10 in a referendum that also gave President Hissene Habre another seven-year term.

One of the reforms took effect in April with the dissolution of the National Consultative Council, a legislative body chosen solely from the ruling National Union

## Voters got choice for the first time in Chad

for Independence and the Revolution.

Political parties are banned from supporting candidates in next month's elections, though individuals may belong to the ruling party. Other parties remain banned.

All the candidates are standing as independents. The winners will serve five-year terms. Five seats are reserved for women and one for the disputed Aouzou Strip claimed by Libya.

The landlocked African Nation of 5.5 million people, one of the world's poorest countries with a per capita income of about \$200, has been engaged in civil war almost continuously since independence.

Shamir, after a three-month visit, said his hardline attitude to his

Palestinians, swore in the most rightwing cabinet in Israeli history Monday.

Baker's criticism followed re-

## Iran arrests 8 associates of Bazargan

NICOSIA (AP) — Eight associates of former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, who leads the only legal opposition party, have been arrested in Iran, the state television reported.

The report, Thursday night, said the arrested had held secret foreign contacts and had acted in aid of Iran's interests during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. It gave no other details except to say those arrested were associates of Bazargan.

The letter condemned the government for trampling on civil liberties and accused it of economic mismanagement and isolating Iran internationally.

After the letter was made public, Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khomeini, attacked the Bazargan group and said the spirit and teaching of Khomeini still reigns in Iran.

A newspaper editorial said the letter was part of a plot by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran and called on judicial and security officials to take action against the letter's signatories as traitors.

The crackdown on Iran's liberal opposition has underlined the intolerance of Tehran's clerical leadership to outside criticism.

Political analysts said the rounding up of the group of liberals was bound to set back President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's efforts to woo middle class technocrats for the vital task of rebuilding its economy.

It would also hamper Tehran's efforts to project a better human rights image to the world.

Bazargan, 83, has been in custody since he resigned in November, 1979 following the seizure of the U.S. embassy by student militants.

He is secretary-general of the Freedom Movement of Iran, a small party which has been allowed to serve as a token opposition. All other opposition groups have been brutally suppressed.

Bazargan's main political action has been to circulate periodic letters, critical of various govern-

ment policies.

About a month ago, Bazargan and 90 other liberal critics signed an "open letter" to president Hashemi Rafsanjani calling for restoration of constitutional rights.

The letter condemned the government for trampling on civil liberties and accused it of economic mismanagement and isolating Iran internationally.

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Bazargan charged that the letter was forged.

"The (liberals') letter was an opportunity for an opening, but the hardliners made Rafsanjani choose between Khomeini and the Freedom Movement, and the outcome was obvious," Bani-Sadr said.

Bani-Sadr said Rafsanjani was forced to go along with the crackdown after hardliners mounted a concerted campaign against the liberals in the press.

Radical former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Montasheri published a letter by the late Ayatollah Khomeini that the Freedom Movement wanted to make Iran dependent on the United States and its members must never be given key positions.

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## Israel opens office in China

PEKING (R) — Israel formally opened a science and technology office in Peking Friday in a move foreign envoys said was a step towards diplomatic relations with China.

The Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities opened a liaison office, giving the Jewish state a semi-official representative in the Chinese capital.

"Our purpose is to encourage and reinforce cooperation," said Yoel Guittal, deputy director of the office. "We are not looking for other relations."

The two countries do not have diplomatic relations and Peking has close official ties to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

It recognises Palestine as a state and has given military training to Palestinians, a point that was publicly acknowledged by PLO chief Yasir Arafat during a visit to Peking last year.

# Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1990 3

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Chinese minister ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Chinese Defence Minister Qin Jiwei wound up a several day official visit to Jordan, Thursday, during which he had an audience with His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the chief of staff Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb and visited a number of military, cultural and touristic sites in Jordan. Upon departure, he was seen off by Gen. Abu Taleb and senior military officers, as well as the Chinese ambassador to Jordan and the Chinese military attaché to Jordan.

### Ministry floats powder milk prices

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Nabil Abu Al Huwa took a decision to float the prices of powdered milk imported by the private sector and left the pricing of all kinds of imported powdered milk, except baby milk, to the importers, who will announce the new prices as of June 16. The minister called on all importers to announce the retail prices on the invoices issued by them to retailers.

### ALECSO chief meets Jordanian envoy

TUNIS (Petra) — Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) Misare' Al Rawi received Friday Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Sar'an Al Hassan, who is also Jordan's representative to the Tunis-based ALECSO, on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Tunisia. Misare' and Hassan reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and ALECSO and discussed preparations for the Arab-European cultural seminar to be held in Amman in 1991. Misare' expressed appreciation for Jordan's role in supporting ALECSO and thanked Al Hassan for his efforts and cooperation for achieving the goals of the organisation.

### Roads closed due to sandstorms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday said that the road between Hassa and Dabas along the desert road was exposed to sandstorms, and called on all motorists using that road to drive carefully and slowly because of dust and poor visibility. The department also said the road between Jizeh and Dabas, as well as Mirwaqqar-Queen Alia road were closed to traffic because of heavy dust and poor visibility.

### Textiles exhibition opens

AMMAN — An exhibition entitled "Textiles from Ottoman Times" opens Saturday June 16, 1990 at 6:00 p.m. at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery. Items on display are from the private collection of Dr. Herwig Bartels, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. The exhibition consists of an array of textiles from the Ottoman Empire dating back to the 16th - 19th centuries. Velvets and delicate silk embroideries, woollen slit tapestry rugs (kilims), pile rugs and brocaded (zili) pieces represent a wide range of styles, textures and colours of rare quality and beauty. The exhibition runs until June 30, 1990. Gallery hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday - Wednesday and from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays (closed Fridays).

### Wildlife conservation law issued

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat Tuesday approved the issuance of a special regulation for the conservation of wildlife. The regulation bans the importation or exportation of wild plants or animals without prior permit from the ministry and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). Under the new regulation, the University of Jordan and the RSCN will determine the species of wild animals already extinct or those facing the danger of extinction.

## USAID to grant \$10m for boosting services sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will finance a \$10 million project for developing the services sector in Jordan, with a view to upgrading its performance and enhancing its contribution to income growth.

The project also aims at creating more demand on the Jordanian labour force abroad. The project, subject of an agreement between the Ministry of Planning and one of the foreign consulting firms, aims at developing four major areas of the services sector.

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His Majesty King Hussein visited the army headquarters in Amman Thursday, and had a meeting with army chief of staff and senior aides.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

## House to hold third meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold its third meeting in the current extraordinary session Saturday to continue debate on several amendments to laws.

The meeting, which is to be attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members,

## Four killed, 160 injured in accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four people were killed and 160 others were injured in road accidents in Jordan between June 2 and June 9, 1990 according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The statement said the casualties came as a result of 366 accidents during that week, registering a decrease by 10 accidents over the previous week.

A nine-year-old boy was killed when knocked down by a passing car near the Beqaa refugee camp, according to a report in the local press Friday.

According to the amendment, the Cabinet will be empowered to define the amount to be paid for such exemptions; earlier reports said that the sum will be \$10,000.

The Saturday meeting is also expected to continue a debate on the Higher Court of Justice law which began last week.

Parliament's legal committee is expected to convene on Monday, under Hussein Mjalli, to review a draft law for cancelling the National Medical Institution (NMI) a draft law on Jordanian universities and a draft law on higher education in Jordan.

## WHAT'S ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharaz, Mohammed Azaad and Hani Khazzal at the House Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La révolution: 20 ans après" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Amman '90" photo exhibition at Amman Municipality public library.
- ★ Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German artists at Abdil Hamed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdil Hamed Shoman Foundation.

### CONCERT

★ Concert by Baghdad Chamber Ensemble at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

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## Jordan appeals to ILO to protect Palestinian workers

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan has appealed to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to do all it can to provide protection for the Palestinian workers under occupation and for the local Arab environment and natural resources in the occupied Palestinian lands.

The call was voiced by Minister of Labour Oaseem Obeidat in an address to a general ILO conference here, called to review a report by the organisation's director-general on the conditions of Palestinian workers.

"The report this year reflects the suffering inflicted on the Palestinian people in general, and the workers in particular, at the hands of the occupation authorities which try to stifle the spirit of Palestinian resistance," said Obeidat in his address.

The 1978 report, he said, had

referred to Israel's stealing of Palestinian lands and water resources and to the repressive measures against the Palestinian workers.

These measures, the minister said, are designed to thwart all attempts to reach a peaceful settlement and to deprive the Palestinian people of the right to establish an independent state in Palestine.

Obeidat drew the conference's attention to Israel's discriminatory practices against the Palestinian workers, the heavy taxes imposed on the Arab citizens and the lack of social security and health services for the Arab workers under Israeli rule.

Obeidat said that such policies have serious impact on the Arab population's economic and social life.

## New social realities need new, modern methods to tackle crime

By Saeda Kilani  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — The authorities should employ more modern methods in handling crimes and means of dealing with suspects and delinquents in view of the fact that Jordan has witnessed a major change in its political history and entered a new democratic phase where repression has been eliminated, according to a two-day symposium held in Amman last week.

The report said the nine-year-old boy, called Maath Mousa, was walking at the side of the main road in the company of his 11-year-old brother, when the speeding car hit him.

The driver immediately stopped to pick him up giving the impression that he was taking him to hospital. However, near the satellite ground station, towards Rmeimim, he dumped the body near a forest. The boy was found later by local villagers, the report said.

It said that the boy was pronounced dead upon arriving at the Jordan University Hospital.

In Zarqa, local authorities reported that they destroyed 200 kilogrammes of dates, more than 20 tonnes of potatoes, 200 litres of juice and 221 tonnes of various foodstuffs after they found them to be unfit for human consumption.

The conference recommended that contemporary

laws be revamped to match the social change and evolution of the course of life in Jordan and that a special seminar be held to tackle the issue of juvenile delinquency in all its social and legal aspects and in its consideration of the fact delinquents adversely affect the security and stability of the country.

Emphasising the important role of education in influencing the young generation and shaping their approach to life, the symposium, which reviewed seven working papers, called for new programmes to be implemented by the ministries of education and youth aimed at involving children and youth in activities useful to themselves and the society. The conference also stressed the importance of raising awareness among parents as well as concerned institutions that violence breeds violence and that family conflicts have a major impact on shaping children's behaviour and future.

Other recommendations issued by the symposium, organised by the Higher Council for Combating Crime in cooperation with the PSD, included:

— In-depth studies on the phenomenon of crimes and means to minimise as far as possible its creeping increase.

— Encouragement for scientific

research in the field of crime and the provision of necessary facilities for interested researchers and analysts in coordination with high educational institutions, involving students in the study of crime.

— Establishment of a centre for criminal and social research at the PSD entrusted with the task of investigating and studying the size of the crime and motives and drawing up appropriate recommendations.

— Involvement of the information system and the various media in efforts to prevent crimes and delinquency; seminars and meetings should be held with a view to promoting the citizen's role in this goal.

— Measures to ensure that social and individual rights are protected when news and material on crimes are reported in the media.

— Measures to enrich and enlarge reform programmes that may give more concern and attention to the involved individual's psychological, social and spiritual needs; facilities to rehabilitate those convicted and released from prison after serving sentences.

— In-depth individual study of criminal cases and the circumstances which led to them and demonstrating them to the concerned courts taking into account scientific experiments and reform programmes.

— Development of the National Centre for Psychological Health with additional emphasis on social rehabilitation.

— Increased cooperation between the public and authorities.

## Jordan, Yarmouk universities hold graduation ceremonies

IRBID (J.T.) — A total of 2,738 students graduated from Yarmouk University Thursday and received their degrees from Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein.

With the graduation of the new batch, the university has now turned out 21,000 students since its establishment in 1975. The university, which in the



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The capacity of the proposed sulphur recovery unit is about 18 tonnes of liquid sulphur per day and the project includes the accompanying facilities as well as all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the new installation.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12.00 p.m. Saturday 14/7/1990.

Prequalification documents should include the following:-

1. Financial capability of the contractor, financial references are to be provided.
2. Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Tenderers are requested to sign a non-disclosure agreement before receiving the tender documents.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at First Circle, Jabal Amman against non-refundable JD (300) per set not later than 24/7/1990.

Offers should be submitted by qualified contractors to the company's head office not later than 12.00 p.m. Wednesday 17/7/1990.

Chairman

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## Season of confidence

THIS summer promises to be a good summer for Jordan's economy. With the Jordanian currency having stabilised and Arab aid resuming on a level that commensurates with the urgency of the situation, there is every reason to expect more investment in Jordanian ventures by Arabs and non-Arabs alike. Most of all, Arab and Jordanian expatriates could be projected to resume their traditional investments in Jordan. Recent statistics bear this projection out as the number of new enterprises in the country is witnessing an upsurge. Interestingly enough, confidence has a chain-reaction effect in the sense that it generates confidence and gives birth to renewed faith in the ability of the country to overcome all of its problems and stand up on its feet again. There is nothing that our enemies would like more than to have Jordanians lose faith and confidence in themselves and their country. The height of belonging is to build and invest in the country be it in a home or a farm or a business enterprise. The winners from the regeneration of faith and conviction are the Jordanian people who stand to collect the fruit of their self-confidence and hard and objective work. The government has adopted some necessary measures with a view to bolstering confidence in the country and now it is up to the people to react in kind and continue the remarkable rebuilding process that Jordan has been witnessing. This summer season is ripe to crown this process with even more positive indicators showing that the country is on the right track again.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN dailies tackled the United States position with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the light of the latest statements by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Al Ra'i referred to Baker's blaming Israel for impeding the peace process. It said the comment deserved interest, this statement does not prompt the Arab countries to jump to the conclusion that Washington is changing heart or contemplating the conclusion that the United States is changing heart or contemplating a more realistic and balanced policy in the Middle East. What is important does not lie in mere statements of American officials, but in the actions which ought to be directed towards stopping Israeli practices in Palestine, the paper noted. It said it is rather difficult to try to interpret Baker's statement in the light of the conflicting actions on the part of the American administration, which is totally biased towards Israel in word and deed. One must not forget the unlimited assistance given to Israel and the American vetoes at the Security Council which provide the necessary protection for Israel's barbaric actions, the paper continued. Angry words, the paper said, are empty as they are not backed by any credibility or meaningful actions and because they contradict actions. James Baker should understand, said the paper, that words alone are not sufficient to stimulate the Middle East peace process and can by no means restore American credibility.

FOR THE FIRST time a U.S. Secretary of State places the blame squarely on the Jewish state for impeding the peace process, said Al Dastour in commenting on Baker's statements in Washington. The paper said one can not overlook Baker's statements about Israel and its obstruction to the process of peace, and one can only welcome such development and such courageous statements. But the paper said that the Arabs can not but show reservations and remain on their guard vis-a-vis this kind of attitude, simply because the Americans, under Zionist pressure, are most likely to swallow their words and go back on their previous attitudes and promises. Experience has taught the Arabs to be careful and to watch the actions of the U.S.-Israeli alliance intently, said the paper. As one watches the developments and hears the statements, the paper said, it must be borne in mind that the new government in Israel is bound to welcome Baker's threat that the United States would end its mediation efforts because this will clear the way for Israel to act freely. Still, the paper said, it remains to be seen whether Washington will back words by deeds, or will assume a position that could help end Israel's arrogance and lead it to the negotiating table with the Arabs.

SAWT AL SHAAB criticised the U.S. administration for adhering to its conviction that only through a strong Israel peace can be achieved in the Middle East. The paper said that over the past years as Israel was constantly being strengthened militarily by the United States its tendency towards peace continued to wane and its lust for war and expansion continued to grow. The paper said as Washington continues to brag about its commitments to the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the idea of swapping land for peace, its actions point otherwise. Statements by U.S. officials do not conform with the administration's open actions, and are considered only as a way for appeasing the Arab countries while Israel is allowed to carry on with its terrorist acts against the whole Arab Nation, the paper said. If the United States is truly committed to the cause of peace in our region, said the paper, why does it object to the idea of an international conference and continues to supply Israel with all types of weapons.

## VIEW FROM AMMAN

# A policy in the bush

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

SOMETIMES I think that the best way to express oneself in certain situations is to remain silent. For it appears that nothing you say will make your situation clearer. I think that we have reached or are about to reach this situation in our relationship with the West, and, in particular, with its leader, the United States. It is a situation where that country seems to deliberately misunderstand and misinterpret us, our situation, and our lives. It is useless to go running to our "wailing wall" at the United Nations, nor to pass more resolutions at the General Assembly. In every arena and on every level, the United States seems to be one or more steps ahead, ready and willing to foil any and every action we may contemplate. We should seriously begin to think of a long period of silence in which we will not communicate except the absolutely necessary and turn inward to contemplate our own situation, what is to be done

For, in our confrontation with Israel, not only have we failed on the battlefield, but also in the political sphere as well, despite of the tears we have shed, and the breast beating we have indulged ourselves in. Today, as was the situation two or three decades ago, we and our leaders are just as confused and disoriented as ever. We have not yet made an outline of what should be the order of our priorities.

The United States, like Britain before it, has something to do with our situation.

Twenty three years have passed since the Israel occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Israeli horror continues and the grim statistics depict an ugly picture of state terror exercised in the most inhuman manner while the so-called civilised world watches. Every Arab has become a human rights lawyer, an international jurist and a death statistician. Since the

intifada broke out, the Israelis, supported by the civilised world, created the following facts: It annihilated 1,190 Palestinians, among them 146 children, and 30 young men perished while being tortured. In the latter case Israel claims they committed suicide. Eighty six thousand were wounded and 25,000 arrested. Israel confiscated about 52 per cent of the lands of the West Bank and about 33 per cent of the Gaza Strip. In the meantime also uprooted almost 200,000 olive and fruit trees and detonated and demolished or sealed many homes. You see, Israel hates the olive tree as it stands as a symbol for peace. The statistics go on and on including U.N. resolutions 60 vetos cast by the United States to the benefit of Israel.

While the Arab World continues its slide backwards, Israel slides further to the right and into a primitive barbaric mentality that immunised itself against logic and humanity; the Shamurists, Sharonists, Levingers and Kahaneh of the Israeli right having succeeded in attracting the American right and aligning itself with it.

And yet we continue to seek help from the West, from America, when in fact we should turn inwards and attempt to rebuild ourselves. We do need a period of silence from the terrific din and the nonsense that has been going on for so long. It is not a luxury but a matter of life and death.

We must stop the sad melodies and the drum beating that accompanies it. We were told that in fact President Bush is really quantitatively and qualitatively better than Reagan. When one dares to ask, how, heads, "wise" heads, look at you accusingly and knowingly for, in their infinite wisdom, only they know and anyone who dares ask, must truly be either a radical, a trouble shooter,

fundamentalist or maybe even a communist, though this last category is quickly fizzing out.

The fact is that real deterioration occurred since Bush. The situation has never been more desperate or volatile. While the talk from the Bush administration sounds good on occasion, it is quickly retreated from "No settlements in East Jerusalem, well... we don't know... maybe... why not... you should negotiate directly with each other." What happened to Baker's five point plan? What happened to the measly resolution regarding a United Nations team in the occupied territories?

In fact there is real retreat. For the Arab-Israeli conflict was removed from the stove altogether. At least earlier it was on the back burner. The double standard continues and the United States continues to provide the umbrella covering Israeli atrocities while aid, military, economic and political continues to flow. For the benefit of Israel and under the slogan of human rights the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics finally succumbed to the lure of the mighty Zionist lobby of the United States. Today, June 2, 1990, just three days before the grim anniversary of the 1967 war, Mr. Gorbachev was joking with and teasing Henry Kissinger. Why we have to pay the price of detente like we once paid the price of Hitler's crimes?

In the meanwhile, great pressure relentless pressure, is maintained against Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Libya and Iraq as well as Syria and the entire Arab Nation. No one stops to think that the so-called peace process has been nothing but a process of procrastination, manoeuvring and postponement. Delay tactics designed to hypnotise, even sedate just long enough to give Israel the time it needs to create new facts and new realities. When will Israel prey again?

## Kuwait gives Gulf a whiff of political freedom

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Kuwait's newly-elected national assembly marks the return of the country to a form of political freedom which disappeared four years ago at the height of the Iraq-Iran war.

The freedom, unremarkable in the West, is unmatched in the Gulf region where there is little if any tolerance for unofficial political activity.

Despite opposition activists' charges that Kuwait's new assembly would be both toothless and fails for a boycott of Sunday's poll, 62.26 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote, according to Kuwait newspapers.

"I believe our democratic practices irritate some of our neighbours," a top government official told Reuters recently without specifying which neighbours he meant.

"But we consistently assure everyone that whatever happens here is our business and has nothing to do with them."

Kuwait, a country of vast wealth based on oil, and only 1.7 million people, has known parliamentary politics as part of life since independence from Britain in 1961.

Polls to elect 50 of the assembly's 75 deputies were not held on a party basis — political parties are banned under a 1962 constitution — and none of the 348 contestants advocated anything resembling an election platform.

"It was mostly 'I Love Kuwait' and 'I want to serve my country for all candidates,'" commented one Western diplomat on the hundreds of interviews published by the press in the run-up to the

polls, Kuwait's first since 1985.

The house elected in 1985 was disbanded by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah one year later, citing a foreign conspiracy to destabilise the country. At the time Kuwait was being affected by the Gulf war, its ships and terminals being attacked and bomb attacks being carried out in the city.

The four-year assembly, according to the government, will not be a substitute to the Majlis Al Umma provided for in the constitution as the country's parliament.

It says the assembly will review in closed sessions past parliamentary experiences and make non-binding recommendations on how to formulate a healthy government-legislators relation.

Elections for a new Majlis Al Umma are due in 1994, but it is widely expected that they could be held earlier.

The assembly, to which the emir will appoint 25 members, will hold its inaugural session before July 10 when a new government led by Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah will be sworn in.

Sheikh Saad, the emir's cousin and heir apparent since 1977, has held the premiership for more than 12 years.

The assembly will also debate the government's performance but, still, can only make non-binding recommendations.

In keeping with procedure in Western-style democracies, Sheikh Saad and his government resigned Tuesday, one day after elections took place. The entire reappointed him on Wednesday to head a new government.

## Envoy-to-be testifies

(Continued from page 1)

the case as far as our policy is concerned — gives the tensions in the area, in light of complications of the last month or so, we could see the situation becoming rapidly worse."

Harrison said the kinds of weapons which have moved into the Middle East in the past decade, such as intermediate range ballistic missiles and chemical weapons, on both sides, and the presence of forces experienced in their use, "make the prospect of war a lot more dangerous. The barrier against their use has already been broken."

"I think it puts greater emphasis on assuring that U.S. policies find some way from where we are now back to dialogue," he said.

Harrison's last posting was a diploma in residence at Colorado College, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

He was deputy assistant secretary of state for defence and arms control from 1987 to 1989 and a political counselor for the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv from 1985 to 1987. Earlier, he was deputy political counselor at the U.S. embassy in London (1981-85), Officer in charge of political affairs for NATO's European Bureau (1979-81), an associate professor of political science at the U.S. Air Force Academy (1988-89), and deputy director in charge of planning for the National Security Council staff (1975-77).

Following is the text of Harrison's prepared testimony:

"It is a pleasure to appear before the sub-committee as it considers my nomination as ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

"Jordan continues to play a key role in the Middle East. That is never more evident than in times, like these, when tensions in the area rise. Fortunately, Jordan under the leadership of King Hussein has been a

necessary buffer between the often competing interests of other, more powerful states. Maintaining the independence and integrity of its nation, while engaged in a very difficult process of nation building, has been the King's great achievement. It is an achievement for which the nations who join us in favouring a permanent, negotiated and stable solution to the problems of that area can be thankful.

"The King and his government are now attempting to maintain and build upon the achievements of four decades. It is proving extremely difficult. The Jordanian economy has suffered a series of setbacks which, taken together, have reduced the standard of living for most Jordanians by more than a third in the last year alone. Jordan's debt burden — which amounts to more than twice its GNP — is staggering, and its foreign reserves are dangerously low. The government is attacking these problems, and is complying with a strict austerity programme prescribed by the International Monetary Fund. But external aid remains crucial, including continued aid from the United States.

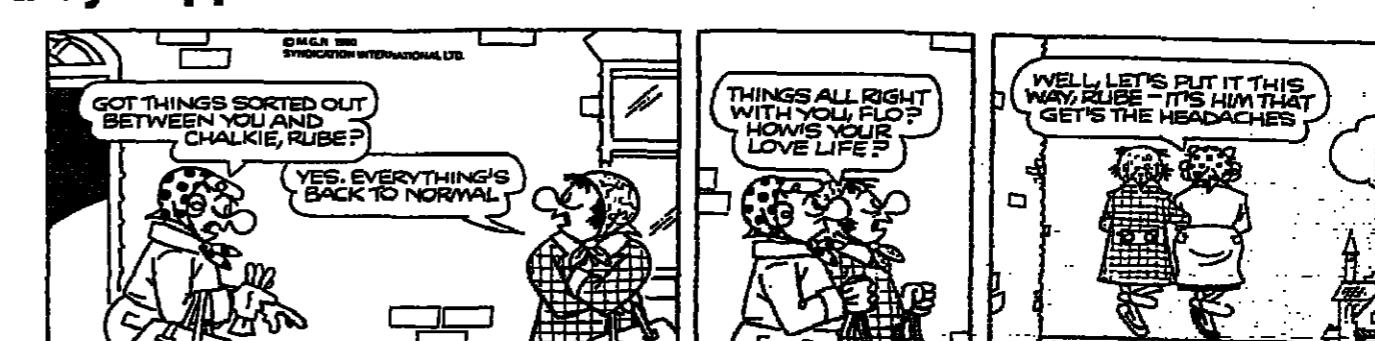
"As he takes the painful steps necessary to reform his economy, the King has also embarked on a political liberalisation programme, which last year included parliamentary elections, and will soon result in a national charter and the lifting of both martial law and the prohibition on political parties. The administration strongly supports the King's liberalisation policies.

"In sum, these are challenging times for the King and his country. The United States has a keen interest in helping ensure that the King's economic reform and political liberalisation policies succeed so that Jordan remains a vital, independent force for peace and moderation."

## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts





The first 50-well women officer cadets have served in the German Bundeswehr for the past year and cast a fine figure in every respect. Women in uniform, here seen being issued with clothes, are to

serve solely in medical and nursing units. There continues to be a ban on women bearing arms in the German armed forces. (Photo: DaD/dpa)

## Women demonstrate 'intellectual superiority' as officers in Germany

By Erich Kalb

BONN (DaD) — The German Bundeswehr reports mainly positive experience with the first women in its ranks. In their first year 50 young women have completed fully-fledged basic training and proved their worth as officer cadets in the medical service. But women will continue to be a tiny minority in the Bundeswehr. They may serve in a variety of capacities in other North Atlantic pact armed forces but in the Bundeswehr they will never be more than officers in the medical service; there is a constitutional ban on women bearing arms.

This provision poses a number of serious practical problems. Because of the ban on bearing arms women cannot embark on a

career in all branches of the medical service or the music corps or serve as commanding officers. The first women cadets on board the sailing ship Gorch Fock, the pride of the Bundesmarine, posed problems too.

They were unable to climb to the top of the rigging and were allowed more room in which to sleep than male cadets, much to the men's chagrin.

A Federal Defence Ministry report says women officer cadets are, as a rule, first rate. They fit neatly into the armed forces and are "more enthusiastic, more communicative, more active and more interested in many ways" than male cadets. In the army especially, many women are found to have demonstrated "an intellectual superiority, a physical

and mental load capacity and a staying power" that were a model many men would do well to emulate.

Women naturally pose special problems as serving members of the Luftwaffe and the Bundesmarine. Equal rights on board the Gorch Fock, for instance, proved virtually impossible, while leadership responsibility has proved indivisible in the Luftwaffe too.

A constitutional amendment is said by the Bundeswehr command to be the only practicable means of ensuring equal rights in the armed forces and thereby eliminating causes of conflict and dissatisfaction. Manufacturing gala uniforms, denims and combat wear designed specially for women is also advised.

It is difficult to take action against a problem which is theoretically non-existent," she said. "This is scandalous. I believe, at the risk of offending many people, that we must think about reopening our brothels."

AIDS has hit harder in France than in any other West European nation and there is growing concern about contamination from transvestite prostitutes, often drug users.

But Barzach drew an angry response from Women's Rights Minister Michele Andre. "How could a woman come up with such a proposal?" she said. "No body can accept this form of slavery."

Humanitarian Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner disagreed. "Let's stop being hypocritical," he said. "Simply reopening brothels may not be the answer. But something must be done now."

At the time whorehouses were banned there were 190 legal brothels in Paris whose "madames" employed 1,500 women.

Writers such as Guy de Maupassant portrayed them as champagne-flowing oases where upper-crust youngsters won their amorous spurs and dejected spouses found comfort and delight.

There was great outrage over the closure of what had become for many an accepted social institution but which in fact had begun as a means of controlling syphilis by making the girls take medical tests.

Since the ban, France has declared pimping illegal but has joined other so-called abolitionist countries in accepting a woman's fundamental right to prostitute herself. Medical tests disappeared in the 1960s.

Proponents of the legalisation of brothels point to the eros centres that operate under close surveillance in West Germany.

But French historian Laure Adler, who recently published a book on 19th century brothels, told the newspaper Le Monde this weekend that the Latin lovers brought up on the French and Italian amorous traditions could never accept such a system.

"Our tradition," she said, "makes a hygienic, medically supervised system where prostitution is simply a sexual release impossible."

Like a number of medical experts she said keeping prostitutes behind closed doors would not solve the problem.

## Muslims in Monrovia terrified

By Michael Kordy

Reuter

MONROVIA, — The street outside the Benson Street mosque in central Monrovia is normally jammed with people attending evening prayers on Fridays.

"But not in these uncertain days. With rebels close to the Liberian capital and fears of bloody reprisals against the ethnic group that makes up the bulk of the country's Muslim community, the streets are almost empty."

"Now it is very difficult for the mosque to fill up," said Lassana, 36, who makes a living importing goods from neighbouring Ivory Coast and is a member of the Mandingo Muslim community.

"Many of our Mandingo people have been killed at mosques and some people have been assassinating them at their homes," he said. "Sometimes the rebels take our women and keep them two or three months in the bush, and some men refuse them when they come back."

The Muslim community of this rundown West African capital city of 500,000 people is terrified at the approach of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels led by Charles Taylor.

The city has been all but emptied of Mandigos, a Liberian name for people who in neighbouring countries are called Moors, signifying that they are descended from the ancient trad-

ing civilisation of Mali.

Many Malinkes run small shops or are tailors, peddlers, money lenders and taxi drivers.

An announcement that talks between the government and the rebels would begin this week in Sierra Leone eased tensions somewhat, but it will take time to undo the damage done in six months of fighting.

Finding a taxi is virtually impossible since many Mandigos who own the bulk of the cabs have driven their last fares straight to the border and beyond.

Hundreds of shops remain shuttered all day long because their Mandingo owners have fled.

They have gone to Sierra Leone or Guinea, which many of them left in the 1960s to escape the socialist regime of the late Guinean Leader Sekou Toure.

Now they are returning to Guinea after hearing rumours and eyewitness accounts of alleged killings of Mandigos as town after town has fallen to the rebels who invaded on Christmas eve from neighbouring Ivory Coast.

"If the rebels continue to slaughter the Mandigos... this will become an Islamic feud and that will be something else," said a government official who is a Muslim.

"It's an economic problem," an African diplomat said. "The Muslims are very dynamic and they have a certain monopoly on commerce and transport."

"They have a lifestyle that is a bit better than those around them, and they are foreigners so they get blamed for the country's economic disaster."

One African embassy in the capital city of this country founded in 1847 by freed Americans slaves is jammed every day with Mandingo trying to flee the country.

One woman said she had left Kakata, 70 kilometres northeast of the capital, two weeks ago after rebels invaded and she alleged, began shooting Mandigos indiscriminately.

"They shot at us on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday every day," the woman said.

"It's like this we left — with nothing," she said, pointing to her dress. "They took all our money and clothes."

The woman, who escaped with her two small children, said she was among about 300 people who walked through jungle and plantations, keeping off the main road.

"We've had dozens of deaths

(of Mandigos) reported by eyewitnesses and various sources from Sammiquelle, Buchanan and Kakata," the African diplomat said.

Diplomats say they have protested to the government and tried to express their concern to rebel leader Taylor in an effort to end the killing, but little seems possible as the country sinks deeper and deeper into anarchy.

## Legal brothels a solution against AIDS

By Claire Rosenberg  
Reuter

PARIS — Ministers, prostitutes, historians and medical experts have joined battle in one of France's longest-running public debates — whether or not to legalise brothels.

Since an angry feminist town councillor succeeded in closing the country's once illustrious brothels in 1946, the state has lost all control over the large corps of professional prostitutes.

Now former health minister Michele Barzach, herself a medical practitioner, wants to legalise whorehouses to help fight AIDS. The ban made it impossible to monitor the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome within the prostitute community, she said.

"It is difficult to take action against a problem which is theoretically non-existent," she said. "This is scandalous. I believe, at the risk of offending many people, that we must think about reopening our brothels."

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## Scientists warn of another 'ice age'

By Irwin Arleff,  
Science Correspondent

WASHINGTON (R) — Is there too much complacency about the possibility of earth being struck by a giant asteroid like the one blamed for smacking out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago?

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Chairman of the National Space Council, and some astronomers are worried that there is.

If the past is truly a prologue to the future, they say, an asteroid could come hurtling down at any moment, at any point on the globe.

If it were big enough and landed close enough to a large city, it could kill millions of people on contact and send up clouds of dust that could block out the sun and make the world a cold and life-threatening place for generations, scientific experts say.

It would certainly benefit all nations to know when such an event might occur, warn those who could be affected and maybe some day even affect whether and where such an event might happen," Quayle said in a recent speech to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts.

The aeronautics institute has been pressing the government to set up a programme to identify asteroids that threaten to crash into earth and look for ways to push them off course.

"Desire the low probability that a life-destroying asteroid impact will occur, the fact is that the probability of such an event is finite and, should it occur, the resulting disaster is likely to be without precedent," the institute said in a recent report.

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While no human has ever been killed by a falling asteroid — at

least as far as scientists know — a dog was killed by one in Nakhi, Egypt, in 1906.

In March 1989 an asteroid bigger than an aircraft carrier and travelling at 74,000 kilometres per hour crossed the earth's orbit just six hours after the planet passed the same point in space.

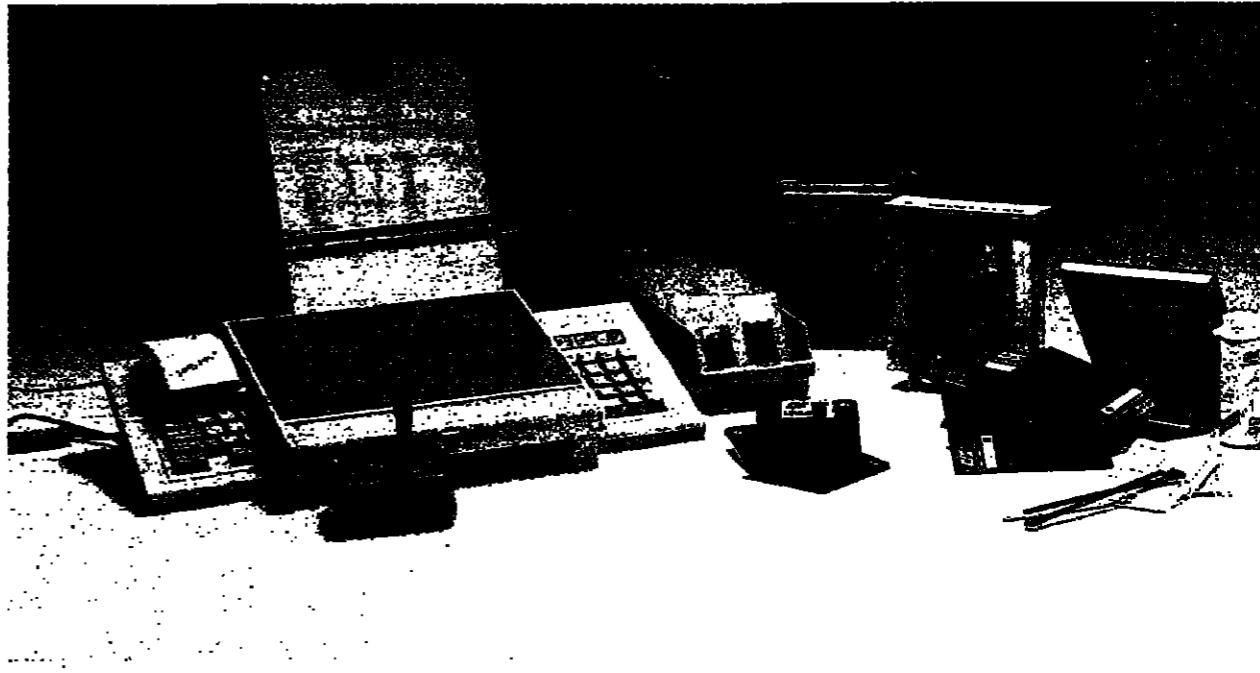
"Had it struck the earth, the energy released would have been equivalent to that of 1,000 to 2,500 one-megaton hydrogen bombs," the institute said.

"In an area of high population density ... millions of people would have died instantly."

There are numerous asteroids circling the sun, mostly between Mars and Jupiter.

However, astronomers believe only 1,000 to 1,500 of them measure at least 800 metres across and might be on a potential collision course with earth, according

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## UNCTAD expert highlights GSP benefits for Jordan

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan possesses the necessary infrastructure and has the capability to utilise the generalised system of preferences (GSP). But the Kingdom still needs advanced rationalisation and coordination to establish an "organised structure" which can become a Middle East model in the future as far as full exploitation of the GSP, according to Stefano Inama, an United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD) expert who is currently visiting Jordan.

The expert described the GSP as an economic tool to increase export earnings of developing countries, promote industrialisation and accelerate rates of economic growth.

Inama said the GSP was "simply a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to eligible products imported from developing countries." The system, he said, provides for more reduced tariffs than those levied on industrial goods traded between developed nations under a system known as most-favoured-nation (MFN) status.

The GSP, according to the

expert, who is here on a special mission by invitation from the Amman Chamber of Industry, removes or reduces the duty on Jordanian products and makes them more competitive pricewise than an overseas importer whose country extends GSP treatment.

As a result, a foreign importer has an incentive to direct purchases towards Jordanian products.

The products then have the opportunity to penetrate a new market or win a bigger share of it.

The GSP is a waiver from General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules to help the industrialisation of developing countries, which comprise 128 members grouped in the internationally-known Group of 77 (G-77). The system involves 16 schemes extended by 27 developed countries, including the European Community (EC), the U.S., Australia, Canada, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations and some East bloc countries.

Inama said the GSP process begins with the notification which should be handled by the government. The government should inform all GSP-giving nations of a designated official body which verifies, stamps and ultimately

approves a product for GSP treatment in an importer's country.

Such a responsible body would then be a focal point for all transactions involving Jordanian exports for GSP benefits instead of involving many parties such as the Department of Customs or the Ministry of Industry and Trade for the needed authorisation.

An exception to the GSP benefits, Inama notes, will be when a bilateral agreement exists between Jordan and a foreign GSP country providing for more advantages and facilities than either the GSP or the MFN. Such bilateral agreements involving reduced tariffs are currently being processed by the Department of Customs in Jordan.

The expert highlighted the importance of the GSP by pointing to East Asian countries which have exploited the advantage of the system to the optimum and have become more industrialised to the extent that some developed countries have withdrawn the GSP benefits.

Indonesia, for example, has registered a 40 per cent increase in exports since it started utilising the GSP advantage while African countries are still behind in im-



Stefano Inama

plementing the system because of lack of knowledge.

Inama indicated that textiles and agricultural, pharmaceutical, and chemical products are eligible for GSP treatment while raw materials, like phosphate, are not eligible because GSP seeks to encourage industrialisation as a top priority rather than primary material exports.

The Italian expert said that he had felt enthusiasm among Jordanian exporters and officials he had met. The willingness of Jordanians to cooperate in adopting the GSP is very encouraging that the expert expects a special unit to be established soon to handle the system in close cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry.

## China gets new World Bank loan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

World Bank approved a \$150-million loan to China Thursday to improve farm production for 540,000 families of Hebei province in the northeast of the country.

Leandro V. Coronel, a bank spokesman, said the vote was unanimous in the 22-member board of directors.

The bank's charter requires it to make loans only on economic grounds, regardless of political events.

The other two consultants approached by the Union of Arab Banks for the feasibility study are Tammar Company for Consultancy of Kuwait and Dr. Jose Kuromi of France, according to Dr. Hindi. He said the union will take a decision on awarding the feasibility study project in the second week of July.

The study is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will be submitted to the next annual conference of the union, scheduled to be held in Rome in May 1991.

The union, established in 1973, is made up of 250 Arab banks and financial institutions, including 12 central banks and several Arab funds and agencies. Although it does not have an executive role, the union acts as an umbrella organisation of all banking activities in the Arab World.

Within the context of the Arab World, Anani said, the proposed

entity could facilitate inter-Arab trade and barter deals in a "structured framework and regulate the flow of Arab capital."

On an external level, "the small size of the Arab banks now operating in Europe and elsewhere will pose difficulties while dealing with united Europe," Anani, an economist and a former minister, told the Jordan Times. Furthermore, there is also a pressing need for an Arab institution which can adapt itself to and apply international banking techniques, he added.

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## Savings, loans bailout hits snags

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady told Congress Thursday that the administration's savings and loan bailout could exhaust its borrowing authority as soon as the October-December quarter.

The Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC), the 10-month-old agency responsible for cleaning up the savings and loans mess, "could, with an aggressive schedule of case resolutions, run out of funds by the end of this calendar year or early next year," Brady told the House of Representatives banking committee.

His latest testimony followed by three weeks a dramatic increase in the administration's

estimate of the cost of the savings and loans problem. Brady had roughly doubled the estimate to between \$89 billion and \$132 billion, after earlier insisting that \$50 billion provided by Congress last year could cover most savings and loans losses.

Any estimate of how much more money is needed from taxpayers is "highly uncertain," Brady said, but a "representative range" for fiscal year 1991 beginning Oct. 1 would be about \$30 billion to slightly over \$50 billion.

He did not specify how the administration believed the money should be raised, saying only that the matter should be

considered in budget negotiations between the White House and congressional leaders.

He strongly suggested that Congress should provide an open-ended authorisation for more rescue spending, rather than a specific amount that may prove inadequate.

Providing a specific amount means having to face the prospect of returning at relatively short intervals as markets change and, with them, the estimates, he said.

Brady said the bailout programme could continue beyond the end of this year without new funds by slowing down the pace of its savings.

## Intra-Asian investment fuels boom

China, from which many foreign companies have stayed away for fear of political instability after a military crackdown on student-led protest, is positive for the economy as a whole because it goes into natural resources, raw materials and lower manufacturing costs," he said.

He said that out of Taiwan's 80-90,000 companies, only several thousand had made outward investments, meaning there was enormous potential, especially because the second generation of managers had often been educated abroad and spoke English, while their fathers who founded the company did not.

He said this flow was different to investment by Hong Kong residents emigrating before the Communist takeover in 1997, because it brought benefit to the parent company in Taiwan, while Hong Kong people were moving their money out for good.

A main beneficiary of Taiwan's investment has been

first time accounted for more than half of all foreign investment in Indonesia and Thailand by 1986, in Malaysia in 1987 and in the Philippines in 1988, and has continued pulling ahead since.

"Such rapid increases in intra-regional inflows of direct investment have profound ramifications for the transfer of managerial know-how and production technology," said Choo Hakchung, chief economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

He told an investment seminar that these flows were likely to help Asia retain its position on the leading edge of world economic growth throughout the 1990s.

John Ni, director general of Taiwan's Industrial Development and Investment Centre, said his country had a net capital outflow last year for the first time, and the outflow this year would be double or triple

the 1989 level.

## U.S., Iran finalise \$600m settlement

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Iran agreed Friday to pay the American oil company Amoco \$600 million for operations expropriated during the 1979 Islamic revolution, an Iran-United States claims tribunal official said.

It was the first major settlement of more than \$1.8 billion worth of U.S. corporate oil claims filed against Iran at the tribunal, which has been arbitrating financial claims by the two nations since 1981.

The small claims package was signed shortly after the release of American hostages Frank Reed and Robert Polhill pro-Iranian kidnappers in Beirut.

But both American and Iranian officials have stressed their talks dealt only with financial arbitration and did not involve the fate of the six American hostages still being held in Lebanon.

Since its 1981 inception, Washington and Tehran have both taken pains to dissociate the tribunal's arbitration and settlement activities from the hostage issue.

The biggest item still on the tribunal's agenda is an Iranian claim of up to \$11 billion for military equipment ordered by the Shah's government but never delivered because of the U.S. embargo imposed on the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The U.S. government contends that much of the material Iran is claiming compensation for is not under its control, but belongs to individual contractors who were never paid.

Washington claims it found buyers for some of the equipment Iran did pay for, and deposited the money in Iran's accounts after the revolution.

The Hague-based tribunal was set up as part of the Algiers Accord of 1980, which paved the way to freedom for the American hostages held by Iranian militants at the U.S. embassy in Tehran for 444 days.

It has been the only official forum where American and Iranian officials have been meeting throughout the decade-long confrontation between the two nations.

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## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Thursday, June 14, 1990		Central Bank official rates	
		Buy	Sell	French franc	117.9 118.6
U.S. dollar		668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	434.9 437.5
Pound Sterling		1142.5	1149.2	Dutch guilder	352.4 354.5
Deutschmark		395.5	398.9	Swiss franc	109.4 110.1
Swiss franc		469.3	472.1	Italian lira (for 100)	54.5 54.4
				Belgian franc (for 10)	193.0 194.2

U.S. dollar Canadian dollar

1.7080/90	1.7000/10	1.6930/40	1.9070/80	1.4355/65	34.88/91	5.7000/50	1245/1246	154.50/60	6.1120/70	6.4900/50	6.4450/4500	346.60/347.10

Deutsche mark Guilders Swiss franc Belgian franc French franc Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns U.S. dollars

One ounce of gold 346.60/347.10

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The market closed lower amidst general caution ahead of the scheduled release of key U.S. economic data. The Nikkei Index slid 129.71 points to close at 32,538.40.

SYDNEY — The market ended slightly lower in trading marked by another sharp ploughing in the gold sector. The All Ordinaries Index closed down 0.5 at 1,502.5.

HONG KONG — A late surge of institutional buying sent the Hang Seng index above the 3,200-level. Buying was boosted by rumours that banks would drop the prime rate later Friday. The index closed at 3,201.52, up 9.97.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed after selective buying helped recoup earlier losses in another day of lacklustre trading. The Straits Times Industrials rose 0.21 to 1,531.29.

BOMBAY — Institutional buying boosted confidence after a weaker start. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 2.54 points to 785.75.

FRANKFURT — Worries about German monetary union are still weighing on the market and keeping volume low. But the Dax Index broke a run of six losing days, gaining 4.87 points to 1,792.26.

PARIS — Fear that France's Socialist government might raise capital gains tax and the minimum wage worried investors. The CAC-40 Index fell 16.21 points to 2,011.87.

LONDON — U.K. figures showed inflation higher at 9.7 in May. Weaker Wall Street also depressed prices. The FTSE-100 lost 10.7 points to 2,392.3.

NEW YORK — Industrial output in May, bigger than expected, deflated hopes for an interest rate cut based on consumer price and trade figures. At 1538 GMT the Dow Jones industrial were 9.9 lower at 2,918.32.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 16, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation  
thought and consideration are the media for you to do today activities; tonight maintain peace at home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what you can do to get bills and collections more efficiently handled in your various materialistic affairs; tonight drive by being opened.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use your charm to try to get one who is depressed in the mood to go along with the business activities that are important to you; tonight avoid a newcomer.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do something in the world that will please the public and enhance your position, then tonight keep away from obligations that depress you.</

## Detroit Pistons win second NBA title

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Nine straight points and a last-second jumper by Vinnie Johnson were what the Detroit Pistons needed to repeat as NBA champions and complete an improbable three-game sweep in Portland.

And they got it.

Johnson, held to one point for three periods, scored 15 in the fourth quarter, including a 15-foot (3-meter) shot with seven-tenths of a second left that gave the Pistons a 92-90 win and a 4-1 victory in the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals.

Johnson scored seven of the nine consecutive Pistons points in the last 1:50. The other two were by Isiah Thomas, the unanimous finals most valuable player, who scored 29 points in the final game and averaged 27.6 in the championship series.

The Pistons, only the third franchise to repeat as champions, trailed 90-85 with 2:07 left. Johnson had seven of those nine. Thomas scored the other two, a jumper with 36 seconds left that tied the score at 90-90.

"My shot couldn't have come at a better time," Johnson said. "Bill Laimbeer told me, 'I don't care if you miss 500 in a row, I'm still with you.' The shot felt good when it left my hand and it fell. I got real lucky."

Said Pistons coach Chuck Daly: "We got the Daly double. I wanted this one more than any of the last three trips. This team worked really hard."

The Pistons had lost 20 straight games in Portland since 1974, then won three straight on the

Trail Blazers' court. Thus, they became the first team ever to win five consecutive road games in the NBA finals. In addition to winning the three at Portland, they completed a four-game sweep against the Los Angeles Lakers last season by capturing the final two games at the forum.

Detroit is now 30-7 in its play-off runs to consecutive championships. Five of the losses were to Chicago in the 1989 and 1990 Eastern Conference finals. They lost once each to New York and Portland this year.

The only franchises besides Detroit to win consecutive titles are the Boston Celtics and Minneapolis-Los Angeles Lakers. Minneapolis did it in 1949-50 and 1953-54. The Celtics from 1959-66 and 1968-69 and Los Angeles in 1987-88.

Thomas, Johnson and Joe Dumars combined for 153 points in the previous two games — an average of 25.5 apiece — but only Thomas was effective Thursday until Johnson brought the Pistons back in the fourth quarter.

"This was much sweeter" than last year, Thomas said. "This is a special team."

Dumars, whose father died Sunday, was 2-for-13 from the field and scored eight points. Johnson was 0-for-3 and scored one point in the first three quarters, before going 6-for-8 in the final period.

"I want to go home and get this over with. I didn't want to play anymore," said Dumars, whose father will be buried in Louisiana Saturday.

## Iraq wins ACC handball championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq's Al Rashid club won the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) handball championship after easily defeating Jordan's Al Salt club, the host, 31-12 in a match held Wednesday at the Palace of Culture.

Al Rashid club players received the trophy and the medals from Youth Minister Ibrahim Al Ghabashieh who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein.

Al Olympi of Egypt came second in the championship after achieving a narrow victory over Al Abi of Jordan. Al Ahli managed to win the first half of the match 12-11, but could not maintain the lead for its advantage because Al Olympi played strongly at the end of the match to win 24-23.

Al Salt came in third place while Al Ahli trailed in the fourth place.

The three-day championship aimed to enhance ties among the ACC countries, said Jamil Ahmad Ayad, head of Al Olympi delegation. He expressed his admiration of the opening ceremony of the championship and lauded the organisation in general. Head of the Iraqi delegation, Ihsan Jawad, said it was a pioneer step taken by Al Salt club to organise the championship.

He said that regardless of the results achieved, the championship has accomplished its goals.

## Egypt, Ireland vie for 2nd round berth

PALERMO (R) — World Cup novice Egypt and Ireland meet Sunday knowing a win for either team is almost certain to guarantee qualification from Group F.

Egypt, in the finals for the first time since 1934, held European champions the Netherlands 1-1 in their opening game while the Irish began their first ever World Cup with a draw against England.

"We are quite confident we can pick up two more points and qualify," said Ireland striker John Aldridge.

Three points are likely to guarantee a place in the last 16, with only eight teams eliminated after the first round group matches.

Ireland are unlikely to give Egypt the freedom they enjoyed against the Dutch when Ahmed Al Kass and Magdi Abdul Ghani took control of midfield to launch a series of rapid attacks.

"We can play pretty football but we like to play effective football. Our system is about not giving people time to play," said Irish coach Jack Charlton, a World Cup winner as a player with England in 1966.

Charlton clearly believes the hard-working and direct Irish style, which has helped them to a run of 14 games unbeaten, can unsettle teams in the World Cup. "Egypt play like the rest of the world. We don't, nor do we intend to... we don't change for anybody," he said.

Egyptian coach Mahmoud Al Gohari has great respect for the Irish.

"They are aggressive in attack and have strong morale and a great will to win. They have a marvellous coach and have had marvelous results for the last 15 months," he said.

Al Gohari has had his squad of part-time players together for four months to bring them to a level where they can compete with highly professional European teams.

But he said they did not have the flexibility to alter their game for the different challenge posed by the Irish.

"We cannot alter our style. For that we would have needed to have several more months together," he said.

But they showed against the Dutch that their preparations have fostered a great understanding and spirit and in striker Hosam Hassan they have a player with pace to trouble the ageing Irish central defence.

Ireland have the option of recalling Ronnie Whelan to midfield after a thigh strain.

His Liverpool teammate Ray Houghton missed part of Thursday's training session with an Achilles tendon injury while defenders Kevin Moran and Chris Morris are also under treatment for knee and ankle strains respectively.

Egypt have no injury worries and could find a place on the substitutes' bench for playmaker Taber Abu Zeid who is on his way back to full fitness after a leg injury.

## Czechoslovakia advances to second round with win

keeper Klaus Lindenberger felled midfielder Jozef Chovanec.

Chovanec, one of Czechoslovakia's most accomplished players, was carried off with an injury to his right leg.

The Austrians tried to move forward in the second half but the Czechoslovak defence, ably directed by Jan Kocian and Miroslav Kadlec, very rarely gave them an opportunity to create chances.

Ivo Knoflicek, who did not play in any of the qualifying matches after defecting to the West in 1988, looked dangerous with his deceptive change of pace.

Protecting their one-goal lead, the Czechoslovaks resorted to a more defensive approach after the interval. But they still looked sharper in front of goal than Austria, who must now hope they can scrape into the second round.

as one of the best third-placed teams.

To have any chance of reaching the knockout stages coach Josef Hickner's side must beat the Americans by a huge margin Tuesday.

Hickner was furious about his team's dismal showing, particularly the dreadful back pass by defender Anton Pfeifer which led to Czechoslovakia's goal.

"We beat ourselves with a disastrous back pass which should not be seen at any World Cup tournament," he said. "After that we were struggling to get back on terms."

Czechoslovakia's victory ended a poor World Cup run which has seen them fail to progress beyond the group stages since 1962 when they reached final before losing to Brazil.

## Few cheer paltry Italian victory over United States

ROME (R) — Few of Italy's ardent soccer fans stayed up to celebrate their team's paltry 1-0 World Cup victory over the United States Thursday night.

Most of the hooting, flag waving revellers who paraded the streets of Rome all night after the home side's 1-0 win over Austria last week, went home quietly.

Italians, who had expected a feast of goals following the United States' 5-1 thrashing by Czechoslovakia Sunday, saw only a disorganized side playing at half pace and unable to take their chances.

"Italians on a (goal) Diet" ran the headline in the leading sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Italy had been quoted as 14-1

on favourites in the match, with the United States 50-1 against.

But the Americans came very close to snatching a draw when Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga made a brilliant save to a John Harkes' free kick in the 69th minute.

Peter Vermes's follow-up shot slid under Zenga's body and was scrambled off the goal-line by Riccardo Ferri.

Italy had gone ahead in the 11th minute with a fine goal from Giuseppe Giannini and, although playing less than scintillating football, looked in control.

They had a chance to put the match beyond the Americans in the 33rd minute when Nicola Berti was hauled down in

the penalty area by Paul Caligiuri.

But Gianluca Vialli, who has not scored for Italy since April last year, drove the spot-kick against the post.

"I angled the ball too much. It was a great shame," he said later.

Italy's inability to convert their chances must be a cause of concern for Italian manager Azeglio Vicini.

But after the match he refused to be drawn by critical questions from Italian journalists. "We have qualified and that was our objective," he said.

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## Jozic enlivens Yugoslav hopes

BOLOGNA (R) — Davor Jozic rekindled Yugoslavia's World Cup hopes Thursday with the goal that gave them a 1-0 victory over Colombia in Group D.

Defeat against Colombia would almost certainly have meant an early exit for Yugoslavia after their 4-1 loss to group favourites West Germany, and the match seemed headed for a goalless draw until Jozic struck.

Jozic does not singe out his players for praise but he is clearly grateful to 38-year-old striker Roger Milla who scored twice against Romania after coming on as substitute.

Yugoslavia, who had overcome a severe, linguistic disadvantage to pull off one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history. He has only limited French and uses an interpreter.

Nepomniachy does not single out his players for praise but he is clearly grateful to 38-year-old striker Roger Milla who scored twice against Romania after coming on as substitute.

From the mostly desert republic of Turkmenia where he coached the regional youth team, Nepomniachy brought a touch of

"like discipline and they lacked that," Nepomniachy said.

He says little more about the secret behind Cameroun's success except to add that the players have followed his game-plan closely in both matches and shown the commitment and enthusiasm their more vaunted opponents lacked.

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## Liberian rebel leader vows to take Monrovia if talks fail

**GBORPLAY, Liberia (R)** — Rebel leader Charles Taylor vowed to take the Liberian capital Monrovia within hours if peace talks with President Samuel Doe's government collapsed.

"We are not going to talk for ever," Taylor told Reuters at his jungle headquarters.

Members of Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and Liberian officials began talks in Freetown, capital of neighbouring Sierra Leone, Tuesday to try to end the bloody six-month rebellion.

"If the Freetown talks completely crumble, I will take Monrovia within 12 hours, 'I'll tell anybody that,'" Taylor said Wednesday in an interview delayed by communications problems.

He said his forces were less than 50 kilometres from Monrovia and controlled up to 85 per cent of Liberia, black Africa's oldest independent republic founded in 1847 by freed American slaves.

Many of Monrovia's half a million residents have already fled the city and foreign embassies have evacuated most of their citizens.

Speaking from a sprawling bush camp in northeastern Liberia, Taylor said he was in constant radio contact with the rebel delegation in Sierra Leone. He said he was leaving Gborplay camp to visit troops in Kakata, 50

kilometres northeast of the besieged capital.

Taylor repeated his demand that Doe step down as part of any peace settlement.

"We are not going to debate Doe's remaining in power, we are not there to work out an amicable solution as to how he can remain in power," Taylor said.

Doe, a former army master sergeant, has ruled this country of 2.3 million people since toppling a civilian government in a bloody coup in 1980.

The revolt has degenerated in places into a tribal war between members of Doe's minority Krahn tribe and Gios and Manos who form the backbone of the rebel forces. Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 10 per cent of the population has fled abroad.

Taylor said he could take Liberia's main international airport at Robertsfield, 60 kilometres east of Monrovia, at any time. Foreign airlines had already stopped flying there.

"We don't want to destroy Robertsfield or Monrovia, and we are going to continue to find a solution, hoping that we can get in with minimum damage. But we have been fighting for six months

and we are not going to be talking for ever."

Taylor said he did not want to destroy Liberia's already fragile economic infrastructure.

Taylor, a former civil servant and businessman, fled to the United States in 1983 after Doe accused him of embezzling \$900,000 of government funds. He escaped from jail there while awaiting an extradition hearing and disappeared. He resurfaced in the Ivory Coast last December from where he led 150 poorly armed men into Liberia.

Western diplomats said the core of Taylor's men were trained in Libya. Taylor declined to comment on his Libyan connections but said he favoured a Western-style, capitalist government.

"I am the product of American education," said Taylor, who has a degree in economics from Bentley College near Boston.

"If (Libyan leader Muammar) Qaddafi has some money for me, I'll take it to free my people," he said.

"But Doe is undoubtedly our biggest arms supplier," he added with a smile, holding a brand new U.S.-made M-16 assault rifle captured from the Liberian army.

A ceasefire is one part of a three-point peace programme formulated by the Liberian Council of Churches and Islamic religious leaders.

Intellectual capacities," Taylor said.

### Progress at talks

Meanwhile signs of progress towards a ceasefire in Liberia's bloody six-month-long rebellion emerged Friday as the government and rebels began the third full day of talks in Freetown.

Thomas Woeiyu, chief negotiator for Taylor's NPFL rebels, told reporters as he entered the talks he was "very hopeful" a ceasefire could be arranged in the West African country.

Another rebel delegate, Samuel Dokie, the NPFL's political consultant, said outside the U.S. embassy where the talks are being held that "things are progressing."

Liberian Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier told reporters as the talks recessed Thursday night: "We'll solve our problems very soon."

The two delegations remain far apart however on key issues, specifically on the rebel demand for the resignation of Doe.

Both sides are under considerable moral pressure from the church leaders who are mediating the talks to reach some sort of compromise to prevent a bloodbath if the rebels storm Monrovia.

A ceasefire is one part of a three-point peace programme formulated by the Liberian Council of Churches and Islamic religious leaders.

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## Sofia opposition rejects coalition with Socialists

**SOFIA (AP)** — The chief of the Socialist Party has called again for a government of national consensus, following opposition refusal to join in a coalition with the former Communists.

Socialist Party Chief Alexander Lukov told a Thursday night news conference that his party is reluctant to go it alone, even though it is expected to win an absolute majority in Sunday's second round of voting for parliament.

The Socialists won the largest share of the seats decided in last Sunday's first round.

Lukov called for a government of national consensus to lead Bulgaria out of its current economic crisis.

"We think democracy in Bulgaria now needs all political forces" to unite toward resolving national problems, he said. "We see the other parties as political opponents but we also see them as political partners."

Prime Minister Andrei Luka-

nov, considered the best qualified man to head a new cabinet, has made clear he will not take the job if other parties refuse to join in the government.

But Zhelev, leader of the 16-party Union of Democratic Forces said his opposition alliance does not want to enter any coalition with the Socialists, who are largely former members of the Communist Party. Instead, he said he favours a government of "component people and experts."

"West Germany has got elections in December and there is pretty strong anti-nuclear sentiment there — which is growing as we head for unification," he said.

"The Soviets obviously want to get rid of nuclear weapons in Germany."

"We propose the formation of a government run by competent persons that could rely on political support from the main forces," he told a news conference.

He also indicated that his alliance was reluctant to join in a ruling coalition, saying: "It would be unjust and unfair to us... to shoulder the burden of the disastrous economic situation for which we are not to blame."

## Czech party leader temporarily suspended

**PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP)** — The People's Party, one of three in a Christian Democrat alliance that fared poorly in last weekend's elections, suspended its chairman Thursday for alleged links to the old secret police.

Then conservative party also formally declined to join the new coalition government being formed by incumbent ex-Communist Prime Minister Marian Calfa. A second alliance member, the Christian Democratic movement, refused Tuesday to take part in the coalition.

President Vaclav Havel's Civic Forum and its Slovak ally, Public Against Violence, won 170 of the 300 seats in the national parliament in the elections, the first free vote in Czechoslovakia in 44 years, but the parties fell short of the three-fifths majority needed to win key constitutional changes alone.

Bartonsk's suspension will remain in force until the party's national conference in September at the latest, People's Party officials told at news conference.

A back hole is believed to be an imploded star, a massive ob-

ject so dense that even light cannot escape its gravitational pull. It is sucking in one star every 5,000 to 10,000 years, he said. It is 25,000 light years from Earth.

"It's an arena where gravity has a complete triumph over all other forces," he said of his research that involved three years of observations through the very large array radiotelescope.

The pictures of the object, called Sagittarius A, show at least seven clumps of gas surrounding it and seeming to spiral outward from it, as if being sprayed out from something rapidly spinning.

"This is the first time you can actually see bloblike sources near the galactic centre," Yusef-Zadeh said.

Until now, he said, it had not been clear whether Sagittarius A or a star cluster called IRS 16 was really at the centre of these galaxies.

"We believe that we have good evidence that Sagittarius A is

## Blast damages U.K. army buildings in W. Germany

**BONN (R)** — An explosion damaged buildings used by the British army in West Germany Thursday but no one was injured, an army spokesman said.

A "terrorist device" exploded just after 5 p.m. (1500GMT) and damaged a classroom and changing rooms at an army training centre in the north German town of Hamelin.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

The base at Hamelin is used mostly by British army Royal Engineers but also by troops from other countries, most recently the Netherlands.

NATO has said it will start talks on the issue only after a Vienna agreement on slashing conventional forces in Europe CFE is signed, probably by the end of this year.

Moscow said it wanted to start talks in September or October, independently of CFE, that would aim to eliminate all ground-based missiles, nuclear artillery and nuclear bombs from the continent. The Soviet Union has a 14-fold superiority in such weapons, the sources said.

The two delegations remain far apart however on key issues, specifically on the rebel demand for the resignation of Doe.

Both sides are under considerable moral pressure from the church leaders who are mediating the talks to reach some sort of compromise to prevent a bloodbath if the rebels storm Monrovia.

A ceasefire is one part of a three-point peace programme formulated by the Liberian Council of Churches and Islamic religious leaders.

"In a way I sympathise with him because of his limited intel-

ligence," said the IRA, which is fighting to unite the British province of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic.

A week earlier, IRA gunmen killed two Australian tourists they mistook for British soldiers in Roermond, a small town in the Netherlands just across the border from West Germany.

"We understand it could have been Semtex or something of that kind," a spokeswoman for the British army of the Rhine in Hamelin said of the explosive device.

Semtex is a Czechoslovak-made plastic explosive commonly used by guerrilla groups including the IRA.

She said it caused severe damage to one side of the classroom building, which was in the middle of the British army's training ground beside a main road.

## Tamils kill 23 Sri Lankan police as offensive continues

**COLOMBO (R)** — Tamil rebels

slashed dead 23 policemen they captured in a five-day-old onslaught in northern Sri Lanka, military officials said in Colombo Friday.

The rebels had hoped that a

mandate for SNF negotiations would be ready by next month's London summit of NATO's 16 leaders, but diplomats say this is now unlikely.

One NATO diplomat said the Soviet Union seemed to have made the offer with West Germany in mind.

They said the rebels also appeared to be preparing to assault an army base in a 16th century fort in the northern city of Jaffna.

The officials said the policemen were shot dead after rebels captured a police post in Kinniya district near the major east coast port of Trincomalee Thursday night.

Sixty policemen were taken prisoner and 23 of them were later lined up and slaughtered, the official said, quoting one policeman who managed to get rid of nuclear weapons in Germany.

The army has sent reinforcements to the north to battle the Tiger assault but so far there have been no reports of casualties.

Military sources said the Tigers had also surrounded Jaffna Fort built by Dutch colonial rulers.

They were digging trenches and appeared to be preparing for an assault.

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